

HAPPY
HOUSE

The Care Bear Cousins and the Snowy Christmas





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The Care Bear Cousins and the Snowy Christmas

by Della Maison • illustrated by Cathy Beylon



HAPPY HOUSE BOOKS

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The Care Bear Cousins live in the Forest of Feelings. It's just a rainbow away from Care-a-Lot, the home of the Care Bears.

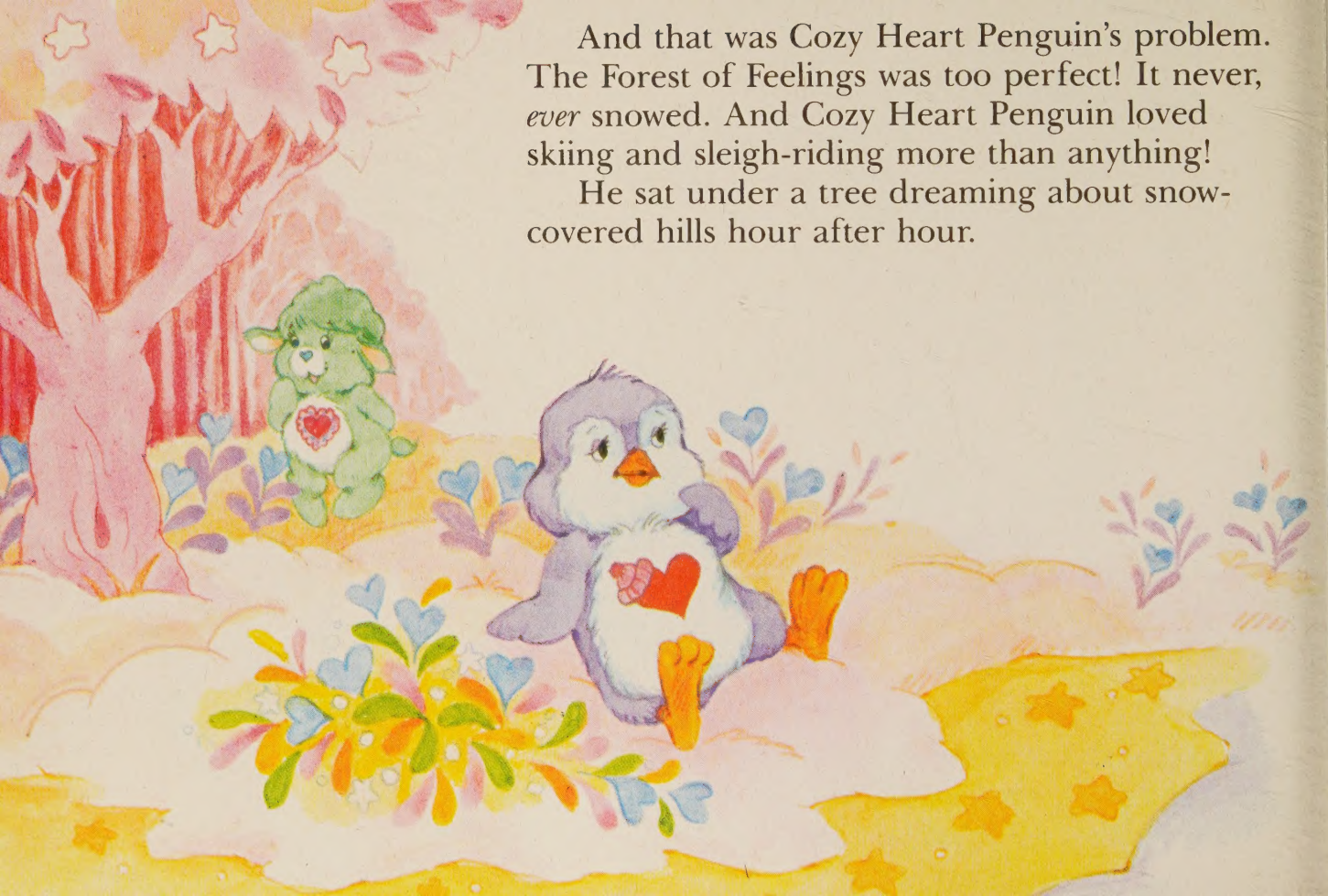


The Forest of Feelings is a woodsy place with soft, puffy trees for climbing and swinging, and rambling rivers for fishing and swimming.

It's a perfect place—never too hot and never too cold.

And that was Cozy Heart Penguin's problem. The Forest of Feelings was too perfect! It never, *ever* snowed. And Cozy Heart Penguin loved skiing and sleigh-riding more than anything!

He sat under a tree dreaming about snow-covered hills hour after hour.



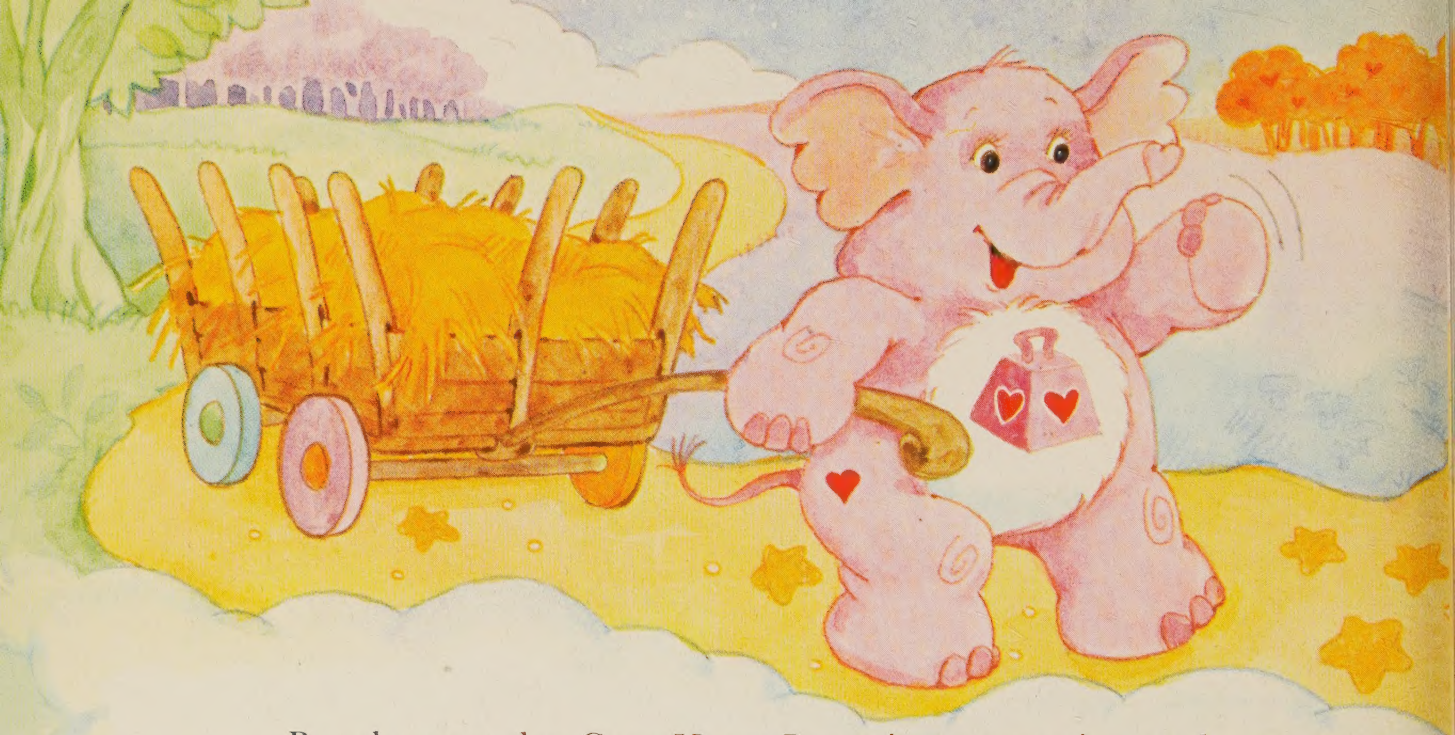
"What's the matter?" asked Gentle Heart Lamb.

Cozy Heart Penguin told her.

"But snow and ice would make all the beautiful flowers die," said Gentle Heart Lamb. "That would be a pity! Help me pick a bouquet. That will cheer you up!"

So Cozy Heart Penguin picked flowers with Gentle Heart Lamb and forgot about snow for a while.





But the next day Cozy Heart Penguin was moping under a tree again.

Lotsa Heart Elephant came by. She was pulling a big wagon piled high with hay. "Hop on, Cozy Heart!" she said. "I'm going to take the Care Bear Cousins for a hay ride."



"No, thanks," said Cozy Heart Penguin. "I'm not in the mood for a hay ride."

"Well, what are you in the mood for?" asked Lotsa Heart Elephant in surprise.

"Snowballs and icicles! A sleigh ride—not a hay ride!" answered Cozy Heart.



“Brrr!” said Lotsa Heart Elephant. “That means snow and ice. I guess everyone has a different idea of what fun is. Maybe you don’t like hay rides as much as sleigh rides, but why don’t you come along anyway?”



So Cozy Heart Penguin climbed up on the wagon.





Lotsa Heart Elephant pulled the wagon through the Forest of Feelings, picking up Care Bear Cousins along the way. They all had a fine time, even Cozy Heart.



But all good things come to an end. And once again, Cozy Heart Penguin was longing for the thrill of speeding down a snowy hill.

He decided to ask Bright Heart Raccoon for advice.

“You’re always reading books, Bright Heart. If anyone can help me, you can!” said Cozy Heart Penguin. “All I can think about is skiing and sledding. I love all the Care Bear Cousins, and I love the Forest of Feelings. But, oh! how I’d like to play in the snow!”





“Hmm,” said Bright Heart Raccoon. “I have just been reading about a wonderful holiday they have down on earth—Christmas. People decorate the trees and hang lights across the streets. They give each other presents and—”

“Excuse me, Bright Heart. That all sounds very nice, but what does Christmas have to do with snow?” asked Cozy Heart Penguin.

“I was just getting to that!” Bright Heart answered. “Look at these pictures!”



“Snow!” said Cozy Heart Penguin.

“That’s right!” said Bright Heart Raccoon. “Of course, it doesn’t snow everywhere on earth, but wherever it does, people hope for a white Christmas!”



“It looks like I’ll just have to go to earth for Christmas,” said Cozy Heart Penguin. “Have you ever been there?”

“Sometimes I go down to visit the library, but I never travel around much. It’s too noisy for me down there,” answered Bright Heart Raccoon. “But Brave Heart Lion goes.”



So Bright Heart Raccoon and Cozy Heart Penguin went to find Brave Heart Lion. He was just finishing his morning exercises.



Bright Heart Raccoon helped Cozy Heart Penguin explain his problem.

"I'll be happy to take you to earth," said Brave Heart Lion. "I'm not afraid of anything."

"Oh, thank you!" said Cozy Heart Penguin.



"I have a calendar right here," said Bright Heart Raccoon. "Christmas is coming in just a few days. You'll have to leave soon."

"Let's look at your map and find a place that's likely to have snow," said Brave Heart Lion.

The three Care Bear Cousins studied the map and chose a small country town.



The birds carried news of the trip through the Forest of Feelings. All the Care Bear Cousins were excited, but Cozy Heart Penguin was the most excited of all!

Lotsa Heart Elephant and Gentle Heart Lamb decided to go along too.



Swift Heart Rabbit and Treat Heart Pig hurried to knit mufflers for the travelers.



It was time to go! The other Care
Bear Cousins waved good-bye as the
travelers slid down the rainbow.
Down, down, down—all the way to
earth!





Because the Care Bear Cousins are very special,
no one could see them. They marched along the
street looking with delight at the gay lights and the
store windows.

“Christmas decorations are as pretty as flowers!”
said Gentle Heart Lamb.



"It's cold! I'm glad we have these warm mufflers," said Lotsa Heart Elephant. "But where's that snow Cozy Heart wants?"

That's just what Cozy Heart had been thinking as he paused before a big display of skis.





“Listen!” said Gentle Heart Lamb.

“They’re singing Christmas carols,” explained Brave Heart Lion. “That one is called ‘White Christmas’!”

“Well, there’s not much time for that dream to come true,” said Lotsa Heart Elephant. “Tonight is Christmas Eve.”



The sky was dark. The Care Bear Cousins peeped in windows and watched children hanging up their stockings.

The Cousins found a warm barn to sleep in.

“My heart is full of Christmas spirit,” said Lotsa Heart Elephant. The other Care Bear Cousins agreed.

Cozy Heart Penguin looked outside. If only it could be a white Christmas, like in the song! But there was not a snowflake in sight—just darkness.



The next morning Cozy Heart Penguin stretched his wings and looked around. Where were the cloud trees? Then he remembered. He was on earth! It was Christmas!

He rushed to the window and looked out. Snow! Ice-cold, winter-white snow!





“Merry Christmas, everyone!” Cozy Heart cried with delight. “Merry Christmas!”

And so the Care Bear Cousins
had a snowy Christmas after all!



If you love the Care Bears™—and who doesn't?—
you'll love the Care Bear Cousins™!
They'll add a special sparkle to the joy
of Christmas in this delightful story.

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ISBN 0-394-87216-9



09-BXO-614

\$1.2